(c) The Ibex is placed in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act and therefore any trade of the species or articles derived therefrom is totally banned under the act.

The export of animal or its part or products is also banned under the export-import policy. The question of the export of the wool of this species therefore does not arise.

(d) The measures taken to protect this species and increase its production include :

(i) Hunting of the animal has been banned by law. It is placed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, giving the species maximum legal protection.

(ii) Central Assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

(iii) A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set-up which, inter-alia aims at protection and conservation of this species including its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national Parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Special study has been initiated to understand the ecology and gentics of the species which will help in evolving scientific management practices and increase in its population.

(v) Raids are carried out by the Wild'ife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals are received.

(vi) Cooperation of Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Army is also taken in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders in difficult areas of the Himalayas.

(vii) A scheme of rewards to informers is being implemented which, inter alia helps in developing intelligence network.

Cheating the farmers at wheat procurement centres

689. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received any complaints about cheating the farmers at various wheat procurement centres; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Most of the complaints received in the Control Room set up in the Ministry of Food, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi and in FCI Head Quarters, New Delhi, to monitor implementation of the price support scheme for Rabi foodgrains, related to the alleged sale of foodgrains, related to the alleged sale of foodgrains including wheat below the minimum support price. In one case only, a press report dated 13-4-93 appeared in Navbharat Times reported cheating of farmers at procurement centres of wheat in Uttar Pradesh. The matter was taken up with the Government of U.P. who have intimated that the allegation has been found to be baseless.

Production of Chillies

690. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total production of cnillies during the last five years;

what is its rating price with year-wise details and the details of its being consumed within the country and sold out side; what steps are taken to arrest the decline of prices ;

(b) what is the average cost of production of chillies per acre; and

(c) what is its average yield; what is the average rating price and what steps are taken to encourage chillies growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The figures of total production, average yield and exports of chillies during the last five years are given in the table below :—

Year	Total production ('000 tonnes)	Average yield (Kg./ha.)	Exports	
			Quantity ('000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1987-88	580	780	6.00	8.33
1988-89	680	845	7.9	17.18
1989-90	802	883	12.0(P)	25.85
1990-91	719	881	24.5(P)	27.56
1991-92	617	750	33.4(P)	97.91

P—provisional.

Domestic consumption figures are not available, However, the difference between production and exports is considered as domestic consumption.

The annual average domestic prices of chillies in India during the last five years are given in the Table below :

Year	Price in Rs./Kg.		
	Tuticorin	Virudhunagar	Guntur
1988-89	24.67	22.51	21.00
1989-90	16.33	14.32	11.43
1990-91	14.11	12.62	9.72
1991-92	37.72	34.88	27.64
1992-93	37.65	31.12	27.37

In order to arrest the decline in prices of chillies, the Government conducts market intervention operations on the specific request of State Governments with a view to saving the farmers from distress sales.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture has a comprehansive scheme for studying the cost of cultivation of principal crops under which 27 crops are covered at present. Chillies however, is not covered within this scheme. As such the average cost of production of chillies is not available.

(c) The information on average yield and average domestic prices of chillies is given in the tables in part (a) of the Question.

Regarding steps taken to encourage chillies growers, a Central Sector Scheme for Integrated Development of Spices is being implemented for increasing the production and productivity of spices including chillies. The following programmes are taken up for the development of chillies under this scheme :—

(i) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots.

(ii) Demonstration of plant protection measures ; and

(iii) Distribution of plant protection equipments.

Re-organisation of crops/commodity Directorate

691. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date and the composition of the committee formulated for studying reoganisation of crops/commodity directorate;

(b) the extent of expenditure incurred so far since its inception;

(c) what are its recommendations and steps taken by Government to implement them; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-implementation of recommendation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) No Standing Committee has been studying re-organisation of the Crops/Commodity Development Directorates. There fore, the question of the Committee's recommendations and implementation thereof or incurring any expenditure on such a Committee does not arise. However, a small departmental working group was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary to work out proposals on re-organisation of the Directorates and no final decision has yet been arrived at on re-organisation proposal.

Special Plans for drought prone areas of Bihar

692. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any Special Plans for the drought prone areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to launch the special plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 54 blocks of 5 districts in Bihar. No Special Plans for drought prone areas of Bihar have been prepared.